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May Be 'Strings'

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Peril in Agency Aid, Says Horn

The danger in government support like that given the National Student Association (NSA) by the CIA is because of the "strings" that may be attached to the support, the president of the University of Rhode Island said yesterday.

At a time when the federal government is distributing billions of dollars for research, Dr. Francis H. Horn said, financial help to a student organization is not objectionable.

"I have no objection to it if it were done openly," Dr. Horn said. "I don't like the idea of it being done under cover."

The disclosure last week by Ramparts magazine that the Central Intelligence Agency had been subsidizing the NSA for 14 years led President Johnson to order an investigation into the possibility of governmental interference with the academic community.

Students at URI severed their affiliation with the NSA in 1964, Dr. Horn said, on the grounds that membership in the national group brought them little benefit in return for their dues.

Dr. Horn said he was "disappointed" at the time, because of his feeling there was a need for a national organization of students like those maintained by heads of colleges, professors, and other in the academic community.

Although he had not always agreed with policy positions adopted by the national meetings of the NSA, Dr. Horn said, he had regarded the organization as a "fairly responsible body." "Their representatives always made good sense, it seems to me," Dr. Horn said.

Dr. Horn said he had dealt with the NSA as executive secretary of the Association for Higher Education in the early

50s and later as president of URI. He was "shocked" to learn of the clandestine relationship with the CIA, Dr. Horn said.

With a "very heavy program" like that maintained by the NSA, Dr. Horn said, some kind of outside support is necessary. Officers usually take a leave of absence from college during their tenure, and money is needed to support their domestic and international travels on behalf of the organization.

The NSA has taken stands and supported activities related to a number of social and political issues, including the war in Vietnam and civil rights for Negroes.

"Frankly I think they should be involved in problems like civil rights and Vietnam," Dr. Horn said. "We are trying to educate these people. What more important problems do we have?"

Dr. Horn said he had been surprised to learn the American Friends of the Middle East, of which he is a member, had received large grants from the J. Frederick Brown Foundation of Boston, a conduit for CIA funds. The American Friends of the Middle East (AFME) sponsors travel to the Middle East and supports publications. Its policy pronouncements have usually been pro-Arab.

Such organizations as the AFME and the NSA need funds, which should come from "any place they can get the money," Dr. Horn said.

"The only thing is," he said, "What are the strings attached to the money?—not that the CIA is providing it."

"I'd prefer it not to be clandestine," Dr. Horn said. "be-

cause anything associated with the CIA is regarded as a spy activity. This means, presumably, if there are strings attached to it, you may be engaged in activities that the membership may not approve of."

A student spokesman at Brown said last week a group there had been associated with the NSA in the early 1950's, dropped the affiliation, and then rejoined the national body two years ago. He said the local group had received no funds from organizations named this week as CIA fronts, and no students had traveled abroad from Brown on behalf of the NSA.

The Brown Daily Herald dis-

closed Thursday that one of the front groups, the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs, had donated \$200 to finance a conference on Latin America at Brown two years ago.

Dr. Ray L. Heffner, president of Brown, declined this week to discuss the issues raised by the disclosure of CIA connections with the student organization.

At Providence College, where a spokesman said last week a campus group served its ties with the NSA in 1964 because of a feeling the national group was more political than academic, the president, the Very Rev. William Paul Haas, said he had not had the opportunity to familiarize himself with all the aspects of the situation and did not wish to comment.

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